

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIMA 04249 080825Z

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SUBJECT: MAY DAY EVENTS - A DEMONSTRATION OF LEFTIST FACTIONALISM

1. THE FIRST OF MAY TRADITIONALLY SYMBOLIZES LABOR UNITY. 1976 MAY DAY EVENTS IN LIMA, HOWEVER, CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED CONTINUED RIVALRY AMONG THE LABOR CONFEDERATIONS AND BEYOND THAT POINTED UP THE BITTER FACTIONAL DIVISIONS AMONG LEFTIST LABOR GROUPS.

2. ON APRIL 30TH, THE FAR-LEFT COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR CLASSIST LABOR UNIFICATION (CCUSC) HELD AN OUTDOOR RALLY ATTENDED BY PERHAPS ONE THOUSAND SUPPORTERS FROM THE TEACHERS (SUTEP), MINERS (FNTMMP), AND OTHER GROUPS. THE MEETING WAS ACRIMONIOUS, WITH CONTROVERSY SURROUNDING THE "CLASSIST" BONA FIDES OF THE LEFTIST CAMPESINOS FEDERATION (CCP). ONE CRITICISM OF THE CCP WAS ITS WILLINGNESS (EVEN THOUGH AN INVITATION WAS NOT EXTENDED) TO SPEAK AT THE MAY 1 RALLY OF THE SO-CALLED UNIFYING COUNCIL OF LABOR ORGANIZATIONS (CUOS).

3. THE CUOS IS AN EFFORT OF THE MOSCOW-LINE CGTP TO BRING MARXIST, CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT AND GOVERNMENT UNIONS TOGETHER IN A LABOR UNITY FRONT WHICH COULD BECOME THE SOLE SPOKESMAN FOR LABOR IN A "DIALOGUE" WITH THE GOP. THE GOP HAS PROHIBITED THE GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED UNIONS FROM PARTICIPATING IN THE CUOS, AND IT THEREFORE REMAINS NO MORE THAN THE CGTP PLUS SEVERAL UNAFFILIATED COMMUNIST UNIONS COVERED BY A THIN VENEER OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC (CNT)

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PAGE 02 LIMA 04249 080825Z

PARTICIPATION. THE MAY DAY CUOS RALLY AT A PLAZA FACING CGTP

HEADQUARTERS DREW A CROWD OF ABOUT TWO THOUSAND. SCHEDULED SPEAKERS INCLUDED A FISHERMEN'S FEDERATION (FORMER CTRP AFFILIATE) REPRESENTATIVE, THE PRESIDENT OF THE COMMUNIST JOURNALIST FEDERATION, CGTP SECRETARY GENERAL EDUARDO CASTILLO AND CUOS PRESIDENT FELIX REYNAGA (WHO IS FROM THE CNT). SPEAKERS, WHO MADE THE USUAL CALLS FOR DEFEAT OF CAPITALISM AND IMPERIALISM, WERE CONSTANTLY INTERRUPTED BY HECKLERS CARRYING BANNERS OF THE FAR-LEFT CCUSC. HECKLERS CONDEMNED THE CGTP "SOCIO-IMPERIALISTS" AND DEMANDED COMPLETE REORGANIZATION OF THE MOSCOW-LINE CGTP INTO A MORE COMBATIVE UNION READY TO ENGAGE IN CLASS STRUGGLE.

4. WHEN CNT LEADER REYNAGA ATTEMPTED TO SPEAK, BEDLAM BROKE OUT. COMBATANTS BEAT ON ONE ANOTHER WITH IRON BARS, CLUBS AND OTHER WEAPONRY. POLICE RIOT SQUADS SUPPORTED BY WATER CANNON WERE PREPARED FOR TROUBLE AND IMMEDIATELY INTERVENED TO DISPERSE THE UNRULY CROWD, THUS TERMINATING THE CUOS LABOR UNITY DEMONSTRATION BEFORE THE MAJOR SPEECH ON PROGRESS TOWARD UNITY AND A MORE SPECIFIC ATTACK ON IMPERIALISM COULD BE DELIVERED.

5. WHILE THE LEFT ENGAGED IN FRATRICIDAL BATTLES, THE APRISTA-ORIENTED CTP HELD ITS TRADITIONAL QUIET CEREMONY IN HONOR OF FORMER LEADERS. MEANWHILE, THE GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED CTRP OPENED ITS FIRST NATIONAL CONGRESS AT A CONVENTION CENTER OUTSIDE LIMA. THE CONGRESS, WHICH A CTP SOURCE CLAIMED WAS COSTING THE GOP FIVE MILLION SOLES (OVER \$110,000 U.S.), ENSURED THAT THE CTRP WAS NOT INVOLVED IN LIEFITS MAY DAY ACTIVITIES. THERE IS NO ASSURANCE, HOWEVER, THAT THE MARXIST LEFT WAS NOT INVOLVED IN THE CTRP CONGRESS. CONTROL OF CTRP, WHICH ALONG WITH CAMPESION CNA IS TO FORM THE BASE OF SUPPORT FOR THE FRONT FOR DEFENSE OF THE REVOLUTION, REMAINS A MAJOR TARGET OF THE LEFT. INFLUENCE OVER CTRP IS CRITICAL FOR THE LEFT FOLLOWING THE MARCH GOP POLITICAL SHIFT WHICH FORCED LEFTISTS INTO LOWER PROFILE AND RETREAT AT THE GOP POLICY LEVEL. CGTP LEADERS ALSO HOPE THAT A MALLEABLE CTRP WILL AID THEM IN FUTURE CONFRONTATIONS WITH FAR-LEFT LABOR ORGANIZATIONS.
DEAN

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